

SPANISH GRIP STILL RAGING

Cases in Camps Reported Yesterday Exceed Record.

The Spanish influenza epidemic raging in the army camps in the United States yesterday made the greatest gain of any day since the disease first appeared in the camps. An increase of more than 2,000 new cases during the past twenty-four hours is shown by telegraphic reports received by the Surgeon General up to noon yesterday. The total reported was 8,830, as compared with 6,821 for the previous twenty-four-hour period.

The total number of influenza cases to date in the army camps is officially given as 8,837.

Camp Pike reported the greatest number of cases of influenza, 1,614. This is more than half as many as have been reported to date, indicating that the epidemic in this Arkansas camp is spreading.

247 Deaths Reported.

Deaths reported from the camps also showed an increase. Yesterday's total was 27, as compared with 170 for the previous twenty-four-hour period.

Deaths were reported from Camp Devens, which reported ninety, as compared with eighty-one for the preceding day.

Since September 13, the date of the beginning of the epidemic of influenza, at this camp, 478 deaths have been reported from Camp Devens, practically all of them resulting from pneumonia following influenza.

Emergency orders were wired by the American Red Cross yesterday to its divisions throughout the country, summoning to active duty the home defense nurses. They will be assigned to camps, hospitals and shipbuilding plants in co-operation with the Army and Navy Nurse Corps.

Speaker Clark Victim.

Speaker Champ Clark and Representative Claude Kitchin, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, are among the eighteen new cases of Spanish influenza in the District.

Alfred Lochapella, 30, of 418 Sixth street northwest, was removed to the Emergency Hospital yesterday afternoon, suffering from what the physicians believe is Spanish influenza.

Dr. Fowler, District health officer, has suggested that there be no public meetings within the next week.

Make Month Covers.

The District Chapter of the Red Cross has received an order for about 5,000 more month covers for soldiers in camps in this District, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

All school principals were instructed yesterday to watch pupils closely when they report tomorrow morning and to send home any children who show evidence of having colds.

ALL TOGETHER, GIRLS, "DRAT THE KAISER!"

Milady May Have to Forsake Electric Curling Iron.

Milady may soon have to give up her electric curling iron, brown her waffles over the kitchen fire, abandon her electric toaster and percolator and forego her coffee, for after December 31 some of these will no longer be available.

The War Industries Board is carrying its conservation campaign to electric appliances of various kinds and modern kitchen.

Manufacturers of solid automobile tires also must restrict their output to forty specified sizes and shapes, while new regulations on the use of cast iron pipes, tanks and accessories in governmental projects alone are expected to save 40,000 tons of pig iron, the equivalent of about 80,000 tons of steel.

WASHINGTONIANS SAVE BY POSTAL BUYING

By purchasing food via parcel post Washington residents can make a distinct saving according to a report on produce quotations issued by the Post Office Department yesterday.

Eggs may be purchased as low as 40 cents for best quality both in Virginia and Maryland. The prevailing prices in Washington are 65 cents and 70 cents. Butter may be purchased for 40 cents while in Washington the price is 60 cents and up. Chickens are quoted at 30 cents a pound compared with 50 cents a pound in the city.

TO COMPARE GERMAN AND ENGLISH RULE

The treatment of Ireland by Great Britain and Poland by Germany will be compared in a lecture to be given by Prof. Louis D. Bliss to the men of the Vaughn Class of Calvary Baptist Sunday School this morning.

FAMED TROOPS OF ITALY TO HELP IN LIBERTY DRIVE

Two Veteran Companies of Bersaglieri, Alpini and Grenadiers Expected in Washington Tomorrow to Work for Loan.

Italian soldiers will reach this city tomorrow direct from Italy, to help in the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign, according to an announcement of the Italian News Bureau yesterday.

Two veteran companies and a band picked from the most famous infantry organizations in Italy—the Bersaglieri, the Alpini and the Grenadiers—are expected to land in New York today and proceed immediately to Washington.

The company from the far-famed Bersaglieri, the light infantry troops which Gen. Alessandro La Marmora created in 1858 to protect heavy columns on the march, can be recognized by the plumes waving from their hats. In this war, still retaining their old characteristic of mobile troops, the Bersaglieri have been used as attack troops, cyclists, and motorcyclists. Nor is this the first time the Bersaglieri have served with the French and English, for they fought side by side with the same allies at the battle of Cernaia in the Crimea in 1854.

Physical Standard High.

The physical standard of the Bersaglieri is the highest in the Italian Army. Men of these regiments must have an unusual chest development and be of a certain height. On the march their pace is set at 140 steps a minute, of eighty-six centimeters in length. Their running step is more than a yard long, 180 to the minute.

The popularity of the Bersaglieri is following influenza.

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In this lecture, entitled "Great Britain vs. Germany," Prof. Bliss has some interesting data concerning the forms of government of each of these two countries. The lecture will take the place of the usual lesson.

School Acts to Prevent Epidemic.

In Italy is demonstrated by festivals held in times of peace in places where the various troops are stationed, on the anniversaries of decorations which every battalion of the Bersaglieri won in the war for Italian independence. On such occasions it is customary for the soldiers to make a spectacular entrance to the entertainment by climbing down rope ladders for the edification of the crowd.

For the Alpini, recruited from the mountainous regions of Italy, the frontiers valleys, Gen. Paracchetti, who organized and led them, is responsible. They saw first service in Africa in 1895, where they fought again in 1911.

Valuable Mountain Fighters.

In the present war they have been invaluable in the mountain fighting. Their struggles with the elements in their native mountains have made them calm, stubborn and strong. Thousands of them have been lost in the blizzards in the mountain passes where they held fast to their motto, "None shall pass here."

The estimated influx of men and women to Washington during the present month is 12,000 and this rate is expected to continue for some months to come.

BRITISH HONOR 29 AMERICAN FLIERS

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The American fliers, who went over early in the war, were taught and were taught abroad, have brought down fifty enemy airplanes and seven balloons.

The instances of special mention in action are: Lieut. M. L. Campbell, Lieut. A. Hamilton, R. G. Landis, J. A. Keating, and Simpson.

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Of those mentioned in British reports, Lieut. G. Reed Landis, James Alfred Keating, and Howard Clayton Knotts are from Illinois, the two first mentioned from Chicago and the last from Carlinville.

The army not only adores the girls, but it looks out for them and protects them in every way. Every night one of the quickest, hardest-hitting military policemen of the City of Discontent keeps watch and guard over their clubhouse. He is armed with a night stick and revolver. In addition, he is of Belgian descent and speaks French and Flemish perfectly. He is the most envied man in the town.

Miss Mary Snow, of Lowell, Mass., an experienced operator of the Bell Telephone Company, is chief operator. She is also a commanding officer of the girls and issues the passes and looks after them generally.

Telling of the work of the club telephone girls in France, Miss Snow said:

"First, I must say a word of appreciation to the Y. W. C. A. for its splendid work in looking out for our comfort and welfare. I do not know what we would do without it. This club, which is really a remarkable institution, is only part of its work. Then, we have a number of trained telephone operators who can speak French. Ability to speak French is not so important as it was at first."

"As new girls arrive from the States they will be sent to a special school so that when they are assigned to permanent duty they will be fully fitted to do the work efficiently and quickly."

Within Shell Range.

"I would not have missed coming for anything. I had hoped to be sent to the front, but though some of our girls are within shell range of the enemy, the army has taken every precaution to protect us. It seems that they cannot do enough for us. They are the finest men in the world."

"We are the happiest women in the world, for we were allowed to come to France to do our part in winning the war."

Rep. Fess Speaks on Ellipse.

Representative Simeon D. Fess, of Ohio, will address the gathering on the Ellipse at 5 o'clock this afternoon. The Marine Band will play as usual at the Vesper services.

At a recent dance, given to the American girls of the City of Discontent, and attended by telephone girls, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. women, a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, four majors and captains and lieutenants galore were dancing on the floor at one time, and ten colonels and majors were dancing with telephone girls, and the colonel had the least attractive girl of the lot.

There are so many more men than girls at these dances that the girls are called upon not only to "give" but to "quarter" their dances so that every man may have at least one dance or rather part of a dance.

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1,600 ROOMS ARE LISTED

Soldier Searchers Finish a Partial Cansass of the City.

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All the various housing agencies are now combined in the new registration service, at 1414 H street northwest. Listings of vacant rooms and renting to war workers is done at this office.

War Workers Still Come.

The southeast and the southwest sections of the city have been visited by the soldiers and work of the same nature may be expected in the north, probably next week. The housing officials have no great hopes that enough rooms will be listed in this manner to fill the needs of the war workers who are daily arriving in the city.

The dormitories that are being erected on the Union Station Plaza, and at Twenty-third and B streets northwest, will, in all probability be filled as soon as completed.

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"HELLO GIRLS" WITH ARMY POPULAR WITH ALL RANKS

Telephone Operators Are in Such Demand at Soldiers' Dances That They "Quarter" Each Dance with Officers and Enlisted Men.

Paris, Sept. 17 (By mail).—American telephone girls reign in royal state in France. They are adored by the French and worshipped by the American soldiers, the men of the Y. M. C. A., Knights of Columbus, Salvation Army and other war workers affiliated with the United War Work Campaign for \$170,500,000 which will soon be under way in the United States. Yet in spite of all this attention the "hello girls" are not spoiled.

Ninety-nine are in France. Additional units are on the way. Those already here are pretty well scattered, though there are two or three large units.

The happiest unit—at least the girls claim they are the happiest unit—is stationed in the City of Discontent, so called because it is far behind the battle lines and practically every one there is anxious to get to the front.

They Reign Supreme.

The girls are given two dances a week, one by the Y. M. C. A. and the other by the Y. W. C. A. In addition, they are the honored guests at all entertainments and many theater parties are given them. Besides, they have an athletic field of their own provided by the Y. W. C. A.

All the telephone girls in this town are quartered at the Signal Girls' Club, a French hotel taken over by the Y. W. C. A. especially for their use.

Army "O. K." Goodbyes.

Their life is not all play, however. The girls are under military discipline. Each is allowed four passes a week—two late and two early. The early passes call for them to return to the club by 10:30 o'clock. The late passes allow them to remain out until midnight. The military authorities have recognized the presence of the girls and their value to the army by permitting enlisted men who take them to dances to return to quarters 45 minutes late in order to take the girls home, 35 minutes being allowed for the trip and 10 minutes for the "goodbyes."

The girls reign in democratic state. They accept the invitations of officers and enlisted men alike. Both officers and enlisted men may call on them at the Signal Girls' Club. Their rank is forgotten though military courtesy is maintained; the men are only too glad of the opportunity to see and talk to real American girls.

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